



FEMA

News Release

Sept. 18, 2010

FEMA 1935-DR-IL-NR020

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DEADLINE NEARS FOR DISASTER UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE

DOWNERS GROVE, Ill. —Residents in Cook, DuPage, Carroll, Jo Daviess, Ogle, Stephenson and Winnebago counties have less than a week left to apply for federal disaster unemployment assistance.

Disaster unemployment benefits may be available to those working or living in one of these seven counties during the severe storms of July 19 – Aug 7 who are unable to qualify for traditional state unemployment benefits and who:

- Were injured in the disaster and are unable to work, whether self-employed or working for an employer;
- Were unable to reach their place of work;
- Derived most of their income from areas affected by the disaster, whether self-employed or working for an employer, and whose business is down as a direct result of the disaster.

The deadline to apply is Thursday, Sept. 23. Individuals generally can receive benefits as long as their unemployment continues to be a result of the disaster. Eligibility for benefits will be determined on a week-to-week basis. Federal funding covers 100 percent of the cost for the DUA program, which is administered by the state.

Individuals who might be eligible for assistance must file a claim at their nearest Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) office. To find your closest office, go online to www.ides.state.il.us. **Internet access is available at Illinois libraries or WorkNet Centers.** Office locations also are available by calling IDES at **1 888-367-4382**. TTY users call **1 866-322-8357**.

Individuals who live in the declared disaster area are encouraged to apply for assistance with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Go online at www.disasterassistance.gov or call **1 800-621-FEMA (3362)**. TTY users may call **1 800-462-7585**. Help in various languages is available.

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